TL 902-1

Comissão dos Direitos Humanos 1990

RIGHT OF REPLY
BY THE INDONESIAN OBSERVER DELEGATION
UNDER ITEM 12

Madam Chairman,

In the deliberation of item 12 a number of representatives both from states and NGOs, referred to the situation in Indonesia including East Timor. Before responding substantively, my Delegation wishes to make certain observations on the way in which these references to Indonesia were presented.

I refer firstly to the statements which, in a sporadic way, alluded to cases that allegedly happened in various parts of Indonesia, such as student demonstrations and the displacement of "indigenous people" and farmers as a result of the development process. The elementary nature of these statements does not warrant any extensive response from my Delegation. In addition, those statements were based on unresearched and unsubstantiated data. We had hoped that those references were made as a result of a thorough study, which is not difficult to do, considering those subject matters are discussed publicly and widely covered in the Indonesian media. Apparently, these NGOs found it unnecessary to do in-depth research on issues to be raised in this Commission which we regret. Hence, we could draw the conclusion that what was done was just like observing a star from the wrong end of the binocular. In a certain case, it was admitted that they are not convinced of what they were saying. These issues were apparently raised merely to support their

allegations concerning East Timor.

Speaking specifically on East Timor, some of these references were made only in passing while in others, they were conducted in a more orchestrated manner. With regard to the latter, it is understandably hard, to draw a line between those who raised the issue based on genuine concern for human rights and those who spoke for political motivation.

Regarding the violations of human rights in East Timor, alleged by the latter group of speakers, my Delegation has found that the statements delivered were merely a repetition of allegations levelled against Indonesia under previous items of the agenda. In fact, what was presented was a dramatization of two isolated events in East Timor, in order to give the audience the impression that there is continuing violation of human rights. We often heard in these statements familiar references to "reports", "testimonies" or "witnesses". Indeed, one NGO even brought a mere tourist to this Commission to present what it considered as "testimony of an eyewitness" although this eyewitness-account was no more than paraphrasing a statement on the same issue delivered by a previous speaker under a different name. In fact, the content of the "testimony" is along the lines of that stated in a leaflet on East Timor circulated in this room. In both cases the statements often used exactly the same wordings and paragraphs.

In the orchestration to make the alleged violations sound

worse, some even claimed that one person or even many more were killed in those incidents. Yet, while confronted with facts from third party sources proving to the contrary, their subsequent statements paraphrased the allegation "When police boarded that truck, they kicked the body out of the way. The body did not respond". This sort of manipulation of this august body should not be tolerated if we all seriously share the efforts to make this Commission deal effectively with true human rights issues.

My Delegation has, in its previous interventions under items 10 and 12, clarified the demonstration during the Papal Mass in Tasitolu on 12 October 1989 and during the visit of the US Ambassador on 17 January 1990. While we do not want to dwell further on irrelevant debate, we regret that certain delegations have found it fit to join in the above orchestrated move pretending that they have a clean record of human rights.

Madam Chairman,

Notwithstanding the unbalanced approach in observing human rights situations in Indonesia, my Delegation also notes with appreciation the well intended statements expressed by several delegations encouraging further enjoyment of human rights in all its aspects.

Thank you Madam Chairman.